

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7322

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1196

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNSC PN UR YO

SUBJ: PANAMA SC MEETING IN RETROSPECT

1. BEFORE CLOSING SCOREBOOK ON SC MEETING IN PANAMA, USUN WISHES TO RECORD SEVERAL RANDOM IMPRESSIONS THAT SEEM TO US TO MERIT ATTENTION AND MAY HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE SC MEETINGS AWAY FROM HQ. EVEN THOUGH THEY DO NOT FIT NEATLY INTO ANALYTICAL CATEGORIES.

2. ONCE MEETING UNDERWAY AND PANAMANIAN- PERUVIAN GAME PLAN OPERATING, THERE WAS RELATIVELY LITTLE CONCERN THAT MEETING NEEDED TO PRODUCE IMPRESSIVE BODY OF LEGISLATION TO JUSTIFY ITSELF. BEFORE LEAVING NEW YORK, IT WAS ARGUED THAT AT MINIMUM ONE CONSENSUS DECLARATION AND SEVERAL SUBSTANTIVE RESES WOULD CONSTITUTE RESPECTABLE PERFORMANCE. HOWEVER, WE CAN RECALL ONLY ONE OBSERVATION OF THIS KIND MADE IN PANAMA: AMBASSADOR MALIK' S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT " NON- ACCOMPLISHMENT" MADE IN CLOSED SESSION.

3. AMB MALIK PRODUCED ANOTHER RARE MOMENT IN PANAMA WHEN HE COMPLAINED ABOUT INCLUSION IN PRESIDENT' S SUMMARY OF CRITICISM OF USE OF FORCE BY " SUPER POWERS." MALIK TOOK
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LINE THAT THERE SHOULD BE ONE MORALITY FOR ALL AND THAT REGARDLESS OF SIZE, STATES WERE WRONG TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE.

FOR ONCE, MAJOR WESTERN POWERS WERE ISOLATED BY THEIR SNEAKING URGE TO APPLAUD SOVIET PERMREP. ON OTHER HAND PRC HAD INSISTED ON OFFENSIVE SENTENCE ONLY BECAUSE SOVIETS HAD INSISTED ON REFERENCES TO NUF, SIS AND WDC.

4. THROUGHOUT MEETING, WIDE GAP BETWEEN RHETORIC ON RECORD AND PRIVATE VIEWS WAS ESPECIALLY OBVIOUS. ALTHOUGH SOVS AND CHINESE HAD BEEN DRUMBEATERS FOR IDEA OF MEETING IN PANAMA, BOTH DELEGATIONS IN THE ACTUAL EVENT PLAYED CAUTIOUS, RESTRAINED ROLES; THEY MADE BOWS TO FLAMES OF LA NATIONALISM, BUT DID NOT FAN THEM. SOVIET MISOFF EVEN ADMITTED PRIVATELY THAT USSR HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT FULL PANAMANIAN CONTROL OF CANAL WITHOUT ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS FOR USERS. LA'S THEMSELVES WERE NOMINALLY IN SUPPORT OF PANAMA, BUT PRIVATELY DISAGREED ON MOST OTHER POINTS, AT LEAST IN DEGREE OF EMPHASIS. PERUVIANS WERE SOMEWHAT DIVIDED BETWEEN NECESSITY TO SUPPORT PANAMA AND PERMREP PEREZ DE CUELLAR'S EXTREME DISCOMFORT OVER PANAMANIAN HANDLING OF MEETINGS. EVEN YUGOSLAV PERMREP MOJSOV, WHO DID NOTHING ELSE TO ENDEAR HIMSELF TO US, REMARKED TO UK PERMREP DURING WEEKEND ON CONTADORA ISLAND THAT MEETING IN PANAMA WAS " LOUSY IDEA".

5. UK PERMREP WAS MOST CRITICAL OF PANAMA ACTING AS PRESIDENT AND SPONSORING RESOLUTION ON SUBJECT OF DIRECT INTEREST TO IT.

6. ONE ASPECT OF MEETING THAT POSSIBLY CANNOT BE AVOIDED WHEN HOST COUNTRY IS IN CHAIR WAS PROCEDURAL LOOSENESS. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH HOW MANY YEARS IT HAS BEEN SINCE SC WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF GENERAL TOPICS AND THIS WITHOUT CONSULTATION. THERE WAS AT ONE POINT VERY REAL QUESTION AS TO WHETHER SC, THOUGH ASSEMBLED IN ITS CHAMBERS AND MERRILY DEBATING, WAS OFFICIALLY IN SESSION. PANAMANIAN CHAIRMAN MADE ONLY BAREST EFFORT GAVEL GALLERY AUDIENCES INTO ORDER ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS WHEN APPLAUSE GREETED PANAMANIAN OR PRO- PANAMANIAN STATEMENTS.

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